

Assemblyman
PAUL KORETZ
 Forty-second Assembly District

proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks



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Assemblyman Paul Koretz Introduces Legislation Aimed at Reducing Skyrocketing Health Care Costs

New studies conclude insurance coverage of chiropractic saves money

SACRAMENTO, CA. Citing the urgent need to squeeze more value out of every health care dollar, Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) introduced legislation today requiring health insurers to include chiropractic care as a covered benefit. Sen. Elaine Alquist (D-San Jose) will co-author the legislation in the Senate.

The bill, AB 1185, was prompted by a new study reporting that health care spending soaks up **24%** of the growth in our economy, and other recent studies showing that adding chiropractic care to an insurance plan helps hold down costs.

“As health care costs continue to spiral out of control, we must look for innovative ways to hold down these costs,” Assembly Member Koretz said. “Independent, peer-reviewed studies show that simply offering patient’s access to chiropractic care significantly brings down health plan expenses.”

“Everyone who must grapple with the astronomical costs of health care – insurers, patients, employers, and the government – will benefit from wider access to chiropractic care, which can provide proven cost savings to the health care system,” said Senator Alquist.

New research provides strong evidence supporting the coverage of chiropractic care by all insurers, and highlights the need to rein in out-of-control cost increases in the health care system. Findings of newly-released studies include:

- ***Nearly one-quarter of the growth in the United States economy is attributed to spending for health-related items.*** Health care expenditures will grow to \$1.9 trillion this year, an increase of \$621 billion from 2000. This amounts to more than three times the defense budget and twice what the nation devotes to education, according to a new study by the Boston University School of Public Health. Researchers also found that U.S. health

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spending per person is twice the average of such spending in Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Great Britain.

- ***A recent four-year study reported in the American Medical Association's prestigious Archives of Internal Medicine compared health plans with a chiropractic benefit to those without. The inclusion of a chiropractic benefit resulted in lower overall health care expenses and 31 percent fewer back surgeries.*** The study compared 700,000 medical health plan members with chiropractic benefits to 1,000,000 members without chiropractic benefits in California. With chiropractic care, per capita hospital costs were 15 percent lower. The study also found that access to chiropractic care results in a risk-adjusted cost savings of 1.6 percent in overall health care expenditures.

"Far too many insurance plans have made chiropractic unavailable by refusing to include it in the benefit package. This legislation aims to ensure that those who prefer chiropractic for the treatment of their back, neck, shoulder and hand pain can access it on an equal basis as other treatments, for their health's sake and to save money," said Assembly Member Koretz.

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